

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Summary Information on Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Proposals
Selected for Funding for FY 1998
Updated June 1999**

Forty-one proposals have been selected for funding by the Environmental Protection Agency for the FY 1998 funding cycle of the Sustainable Development Challenge Grant program. Awards totaling approximately \$5 million will be made after approval of the final grant packages.

Sustainable Energy Strategies for Alaska Native Villages (Alaska) 98-10-AK-3363-B The Alaskan Native Villages of Venetie and Arctic Circle will demonstrate the viability of wind power to provide a clean source of power to the remote villages and provide an alternative to the solid and hazardous waste, air and water pollution associated with diesel-powered electric generators. The villages have some of the lowest per capita incomes in the country, yet pay more than 55 cents/kWh and over \$4 per gallon for fuel. In addition to these economic costs, the villages also suffer the environmental impacts of storage and disposal of fuel containers and air and water pollution from diesel generators. The villages want to regain their energy independence and protect the fragile arctic ecosystem and the plants and animals they depend upon. The villages will develop a comprehensive energy plan that channels the energy related financial savings and environmental benefits into more sustainable activities for the village, including new jobs associated with operating and maintaining the wind stations. The villages will also demonstrate community development of renewable energy systems as a model for other native villages currently dependent on diesel-generated power. Applicant: Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government, Venetie, AK

Akiachak Sustainable Solid Waste System Development (Alaska) 98-10-AK-3325-A Akiachak is a remote Alaskan Native Village located on the banks of the Kuskokwim River. The village is surrounded by wetlands and the population of 612 depends on the river for subsistence as well as commercial fishing. Akiachak is also the end of the line in terms of solid waste because there is no mechanism for dealing with waste other than adding it to the overflowing landfill which has begun to cause wildlife and water quality problems. These problems impact the village's limited economic base, as well as run counter to their traditional ability to live in harmony with the earth's systems. The village proposes to implement an aggressive waste management system to separate waste to be composted, recycled or used in a heat generation unit. The heat Produced will support a greenhouse that will use the compost and also provide jobs and fresh food for the village. The project brings together local businesses, schools, tribal members and other organizations, and includes outreach and education for other villages along the Kuskokwim River. Applicant: Akiachak Native Community, Akiachak, AK

Neighborhood Greening: A Grassroots Approach (Arizona) 98-09-AZ-3130-A The proposed project location, Nogales, AZ, is a border community, which is economically depressed and suffers severe environmental health problems. The applicant, Juntos Unidos, provides support to nine neighborhood groups to empower them to address quality of life issues where they live. The proposed project will build community capacity for neighborhood improvement through urban forestry and sustainable waste management practices such as composting, backyard gardens, and recycling. This proposal is a true grassroots effort to incorporate concepts of sustainability into a community that traditionally has only had the energy and resources to focus on the most basic and threatening environmental problems: lack of adequate infrastructure and environmental health issues related to industrial contamination. Applicant: Juntos Unidos, Nogales, AZ

The Urban Village Initiative: Achieving Community Based Sustainable Urbanization (California) 98-09-CA-3122-A California's Central Valley is experiencing rapid growth which is characterized by sprawling development, loss of open space, wildlife habitat, and agricultural lands. The applicant supports the concept of compact, mixed-use Urban Villages. To help communities encourage this type of development, the applicant proposes a planning and implementation project in which they will both work with communities to test different growth scenarios and develop community-based Urban Village plans. An Urban Village guide book, tool kit, and software will also be developed. This project has broad transferability to almost all communities struggling with growth and sprawl issues. Applicant: University of California, Davis, CA

Justiceville/Homeless, USA Urban Farming in LA (California) 98-09-CA-3160-B This project is located in the

City of Los Angeles. Los Angeles is a major urban area with significant environmental problems. The applicant proposes the development of an Urban Organic Farm on an inner-city site which will employ homeless and at-risk youth. The project goals are to preserve declining green space and urban farming options in a central-city area, encourage better land stewardship through erosion control and improved water usage, and create jobs for homeless and at-risk youth. The experiences gained during this project will be transferable to other local and regional communities. Applicant: Justiceville/Homeless, USA, Los Angeles, CA

The Upper South Platte Watershed Restoration Program (Colorado) 98-08-CO-3003-A The goal of this project is to develop a Watershed Protection Program reflecting alternate watershed management strategies that incorporate the economic value of threatened ecological resources under traditional water management decision-making. Non-traditional stakeholders are joining with traditional watershed decision makers to take the first early steps to making sustainable watershed decisions. The coalition of parties coming together reflects the urgency they share towards a more expansive consideration of ecological, drinking water, and recreation values in watershed management. Applicant: Upper South Platte Watershed Protection Association, Fairplay, CO

Developing Metro Vision 2020 Urban Centers (Colorado) 98-08-CO-3039-A The goal of this project is the development of communication tools to build support for a multi-modal urban circulation plan addressing the non-sustainable auto-dominated urban development form. Project involves local government stakeholders in the planning and execution of a multi-modal transportation plan for central Denver. Outcomes will include development and testing of effective communication tools to support local participation in advancing concept of urban centers that are pedestrian-oriented in context of metro vision 2020 Plan. Applicant: Denver Regional Council of Governments, Denver, CO

Ivy City Deconstruction, Job Training, Business Development and Pollution Prevention Program (District of Columbia) 98-03-DC-2143-A This project will use deconstruction, an alternative to traditional demolition, as a tool to create jobs and develop a community based business. Funds from the U.S. EPA will support Phase I of a multi-faceted program designed to employ deconstruction techniques as a tool for job creation and economic development in the Ivy City area of Washington, D.C. The project team will train ten Ivy City residents in techniques that reuse materials from buildings that would otherwise be demolished and land filled. The team will develop a business plan (to be implemented in Phase 2) for a deconstruction community-based business including a retail operation to sell salvaged building materials. Profits from the business will be used to establish a microloan program. Finally, the team will research additional opportunities to create jobs and establish businesses in other areas that prevent pollution and promote sound economic development in Ivy City. Applicant: Sustainable Community Initiatives, Washington, DC

The Depot Avenue Eco-Development Project (Florida) 98-04-FL-2325-B The project revitalizes an Old Depot Neighborhood and Porters Community currently suffering from urban decay, homelessness, environmental contamination and crime. The site includes the Sweetwater Branch Watershed that collects untreated stormwater runoff from downtown Gainesville which subsequently drains into the Florida Aquifer. The focus of this project is the development of the mostly vacant 22 acre Old Gainesville Depot site (listed on the National Register for Historic Places) into a master stormwater basin and a Depot Park. The site is immediately adjacent to a multi-modal transportation hub that will be created by a proposed regional transit center and completion of a rail-trail network that includes the Depot Avenue Rail Trail. The project builds upon a community visioning process begun in June 1998. Human and environmental assets will be used to create a model eco-development of the Old Gainesville Depot listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project site and surrounding area is designated as a Brownfield Pilot Project since 1997. Therefore, the community design and charrette have been scheduled to occur within the time line of the Brownfield assessment to ensure the community's vision for sustainability is realized. Applicant: University of Florida, Center for Construction and Environment, Gainesville, FL

Sustainable Economic Development for the Ke anae-Wailua Nui Ahpua a (Hawaii) 98-09-HI-3182-A This project is located on the Island of Maui in a relatively rural community with a large Native Hawaiian population. The community suffers from high unemployment and cultural disintegration. In cooperation with the University of Hawaii and another local nonprofit, the applicant seeks to develop an integrated aquaculture-agriculture demonstration system. This demonstration will show local farmers how to produce economically valuable ornamental and food fish and escargot in an environmentally sound manner. The nutrient rich effluent will be used to irrigate traditional taro paddies. The combination of contemporary and traditional systems will help the community prosper economically and nurture their cultural traditions. Applicant: Na Moku Apuni O Ko Olau Hui, Ke ane, Maui, HI

Sustainable Ranch Lands Project (Idaho) 98-10-MT-3300-B The Corporation for the Northern Rockies, local ranchers, the Blackfoot Watershed Council, public agencies and tribal partners will create a model for sustainable ranching on the Blackfoot Watershed in Eastern Idaho. The sustainable ranching model will protect and restore the water quality and general health of upland grazing areas while decreasing ranching costs by nearly 15%. Sustainable agriculture and ranching methods that protect environmental health and increase ranch income support struggling ranchers to maintain their rural economic base and quality of life. The model will apply sustainable ranching techniques at a watershed scale and provide training and economic incentives for ranchers to employ these methods. The model will include restoration projects, low-stress herding techniques, monitoring of improvements by landowners, peer-to-peer training and economic incentives for ranchers and support for a sustainable beef niche market. An outreach plan will provide materials and information to other interested ranching communities. Applicant: Corporation for the Northern Rockies, Livingston, MT

A Sustainable Future for Lake Calumet (Illinois) 98-05-IL-2538-B This project addresses a 3,000 acre area adjacent to Lake Michigan that includes industrial harbor facilities and sites and is 50% wetland and lake. The project goals are to 1) articulate a vision for the Lake Calumet area that balances the needs of both industry and wetlands and natural areas; 2) prepare development and design guidelines for new developments that provide options for site design and management of industrial land facilities in the area; 3) determine cost of implementing the guidelines within the area; 4) prepare a program of incentives for owners of industrial lands and facilities; 5) prepare a redevelopment plan and accompanying wetland and natural areas strategy for non-industrial areas; and, 6) implement three demonstration projects. Applicant: City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, Chicago, IL

Achieving Sustainable Communities in Iowa (Iowa) 98-07-IA-2920-B The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will demonstrate the synergistic impact of energy, the environment and the economy by working with seven showcase communities to develop local programs focused first on community wide energy efficiency, moving to impact broader community sustainability issues. Each community will, with the help of a project coordinator, work to identify and prioritize opportunities for energy improvements, financed through the savings accrued. This will create a revenue stream to continue sustainability planning in areas of waste reduction, water quality and economic development. The project will address inefficient energy production and use, wasteful practices in domestic and industrial water use, wasteful waste water treatment methods and solid waste production. It is estimated that the impact of this two-year program is \$15.5 million in annual savings to the seven communities. Applicant: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, IA

Green Rehabilitation for Ownership (GRO) (Iowa) 98-07-IA-2922-A The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) has combined the agency's success in the areas of environmental planning and housing to promote sustainable housing redevelopment practices while providing additional home ownership opportunities in the region (income eligibility determined). Through GRO, the ECICOG will acquire, rehabilitate, and sell to qualifying owners available underutilized housing units. Rehabilitation standards will be augmented by the principles of green building including resource conservation, energy efficiency, use of building materials that have recycled content or originated from sustainable sources, and construction site recycling. The agency will rehabilitate ten houses in the six-county region. Goals of the program are to (1) minimize the impact on the natural environment while increasing home ownership opportunities by preserving current housing stock, deterring urban sprawl, encouraging sustainable rehabilitation/construction practices through the use of environmentally sensitive materials/products and technologies/ techniques, and (2) integrate principals of sustainability and community and economic development by enhancing local economies and job preservation. Applicant: East Central Iowa Council of Governments, Cedar Rapids, IA

Androscoggin Paper Mill Sustainable Community Project (Maine) 98-01-ME-1773-A The goal of this project is to build upon and expand a unique effort to bring environmental, community, and industrial interests together to reduce the environmental footprint of International Paper Company's Androscoggin mill in Jay, Maine while strengthening community relationships and maintaining the economic viability of the mill. The project partners and community and state interests will work on reducing the mill's environmental discharges and emissions, reducing its consumption of energy and water, and identifying new environmentally friendly product lines. This project builds on work the Region has been doing with pulp and paper mills to reduce discharges, particularly of dioxin, and on a developing XL project. This project builds on the productive relationship among the mill, advocacy groups, and the community that was cemented during recent negotiations over hydropower relicensing. As the pulp and paper industry enters a downturn, diverse stakeholder group involvement will be particularly key in working out issues that affect the mill's bottom line, which in turn strongly affects the local economy since the mill is one of the largest employers in the State of Maine. Applicant: Environment Northeast,

Rockport, ME

Working Landscapes: Sustainable Farms Building a Sustainable Community (Maine)

98-01-ME-1723-A This project is fundamentally designed to change behavior, including how farmers obtain inputs, management nutrients, and market products, how a community views itself and how it plans its future, and how the economic development organizations that support communities do their business. More specifically, the project will 1) create a new organic grain system, establish four integrated farm demonstration sites, and provide focused technical assistance to at least 25 farms and general technical information to at least 200 farms, 2) work with four municipalities to develop a new community development strategy centered around farming, and disseminate the lessons learned from this process to at least 60 other municipalities, and 3) develop more sustainable internal procedures within three key economic development organizations. Applicant: Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Wicasset, ME

The Anacostia Eco-Garden Project (Maryland) 98-03-MD-2102-B This proposal is just one of the overall plan that includes small business development, employment training and placement, landscape beautification, ecological and historical tourism and environmental restoration of the Anacostia River and watershed. The Anacostia Eco-Garden Project will develop an existing vacant lot, located near the waterfront of Bladensburg, one of the three towns within the Port Towns, into an eco-garden that will contain an eco-nursery, community compost center, and micro-enterprise landscape and maintenance business and job training program. Components of the project will include streetscaping and landscaping programs that utilize best management practices. This site will become home to a future visitor's center focused on environmental facts of the Anacostia River and historical information on the town. Applicant: Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources, Landover, MD

Sustainable Adams - Economic Renewal in a Rural Landscape; Ecotourism in a Post-Industrial Community (Massachusetts) 98-01-MA-1756-A

The Town of Adams, in the Berkshire hills of northwestern Massachusetts, has been working for the past two years to articulate a vision and identify priority actions for a sustainable future. This vision preserves the small town character of Adams by working toward a diversified economy, with a focus on ecotourism and recreation. This project has two distinct and related implementation tracks, first to continue working with municipal departments to incorporate sustainable strategies into planning and daily activities (e.g., recycling, purchasing green products), and second to coordinate community initiatives that promote a sustainable future for Adams within the context of northern Berkshire County, with a focus on promoting ecotourism as an economic development strategy that protects environmental quality. The project participants will achieve these goals by building local capacity by having town departments lead by example, implementing priority actions already identified in planning efforts, conducting public education and coordinating public participation, compiling and implementing a Sustainable Community Strategy, promoting regional linkages, and transferring information and lessons learned. Applicant: Town of Adams, MA

Sustainable Business Policies and Practices (Missouri) 98-07-MO-2930-B The project will begin by teaching three participating businesses principles of sustainability, and help them to see and understand their importance in the long term success of their own operations. Participating businesses will develop policies and concrete action steps to reach those policies. Action steps will focus on using waste and pollution prevention techniques, and measuring results to learn the costs and benefits of environmental improvements, and will use those positive experiences to motivate participants to develop a prioritized program of voluntary changes that other businesses can use to create their own path to sustainability. The project will build on BTG's Choose Environmental Excellence campaign and their Environmental Excellence Business Network to identify and recruit leading national and multinational corporations to participate, in order to promote these corporations and their innovative approaches as examples to stimulate similar practices in additional businesses, and to sustain the program beyond the grant program. The three businesses for the project would be selected on the basis of their ability to have an impact, not only on environmental improvement, but on the business community - serving as a role model for environmental and economic excellence. How-to manuals will be created in order to allow other businesses to replicate the success. Applicant: Bridging the Gap, Kansas City, MO

Montana Rivers Project (Montana) 98-08-MT-3017-A This project will demonstrate water and energy conservation techniques to rural agricultural communities currently practicing non-sustainable irrigation in the Jefferson River Valley. The applicant will work cooperatively with water users to demonstrate effective low-tech options for optimizing water and energy inputs to irrigation of crops. Outcomes will include measurable reductions in water and energy consumption, reductions in farm operating costs, improvement in water quantity, quality, and aquatic habitats in local watersheds. Applicant: National Center for Appropriate Technology, Butte, MT

Sustainability in the Middle Platte River Watershed (Nebraska) 98-07-NE-2902-B The Middle Platte Watershed in Central Nebraska is a national microcosm regarding issues of environmental sustainability. The region has an incredibly rich agriculture supported by abundant groundwater and soil resources, unique globally significant natural ecosystems and wildlife phenomena, and a human population enjoying a high quality of life. Yet, sustainability is in question due to increasing urbanization pressures, water quality conflict, natural ecosystem decline, nonpoint water quality concerns, and general public lack of knowledge about complex environmental issues. This project will construct a foundation for successful community-based, sustainable development within the Middle Platte River and Lower Loop Sub-basins, by conducting discussion forums, formulating a grassroots visioning and community planning effort, cultivating awareness of local natural resources and natural ecosystem functions, introducing new ideas concerning sustainable development practices, building community leadership skills, and creating demonstrations of alternate land use options. Applicant: Prairie Plains Resource Institute, Aurora, NE

Living Free, Developing Sustainably - Minimum Impact Development in New Hampshire (New Hampshire) 98-01-NH-1767-B The cumulative effect of individual land development projects is transforming New Hampshire's landscape and communities, and is a major contributor to many of the 55 environmental risks studied and ranked by the highly successful New Hampshire Comparative Risk Project. The intent of this project is to alleviate or reduce those risks by convening a credible, non-advocacy public/ private partnership that will 1) create a consensus-based vision of minimum impact development for New Hampshire, 2) develop or share technical information from applied research and field projects specifically designed to promote sustainable development, 3) identify voluntary practices at the building, site, and neighborhood scales that minimize the environmental impacts of land development, and 4) identify specific indicators by which to measure both short- and long-term environmental improvement. This information will be incorporated into four practical design manuals: one each for residential development, commercial and industrial development, institutional development, and indicators. Applicant: New Hampshire Comparative Risk Project, Concord, NH

MSM Resource Based Planning Project (New Jersey) 98-02-NJ-1919-A The MSM (Middlesex-Somerset-Mercer) Regional Planning Council based in Princeton will receive a \$50,000 grant to be used to conduct three case studies to demonstrate that alternatives to traditional urban and suburban planning and zoning can reduce sprawl, improve the local environment, and build an increased sense of community among residents. The first project will bring together MSM planners and officials from Hopewell Township in Mercer County to discuss revising some current land-use practices such as developing open land into auto-dependent suburbs to instead promote more compact development in a new regional center that can be supported by mass transit. Using a computer model, MSM hopes to demonstrate how a carefully constructed long-range plan for the township center using newer land-use practices could absorb development that might otherwise result in sprawl. A second project with Washington Township in Mercer County will explore revising township ordinances to achieve better long-range environmental outcomes. The third MSM project will show how the economic redevelopment of already-existing suburbs located on the immediate outskirts of cities can discourage sprawl and reliance on automobiles and preserve the character of these older neighborhoods. MSM will consider developing plans for light rail lines or other new transit technologies to serve these places in the future. Applicant: MSM (Middlesex-Somerset-Mercer) Regional Council, Princeton, NJ

Newark Greenways Project (New Jersey) 98-02-NJ-1902-B Habitat Newark Homeowner's and Neighborhood Community Improvement Coalition will receive a \$200,000 grant to create pedestrian and bicycle paths in the Newark's Central Ward to connect residents to jobs, mass transit, businesses, daycare centers, cultural sites and parks reducing their reliance on cars to travel to points within the city. The Greenways project will also involve Central Ward residents in a variety of quality-of-life improvements, such as recycling, planting street trees, and developing design guidelines for their neighborhoods. Habitat Newark hopes that these projects will increase environmental quality, create a sense-of-place and improve the overall livability of the Central Ward. Partners to Habitat Newark include the City of Newark, the Hispanic Development Corporation, New Community Corporation, and a private planning and engineering firm. Applicant: Habitat Newark Homeowner's and Neighborhood Community Improvement Coalition, Newark, NJ

Healthy Foundations: The Environmental and Food Security Coalition (New Jersey) 98-02-NJ-1955-B Healthy Foundations is a three-year project of Cook College of Rutgers University that seeks to build the local economy and increase low-income residents year-round access to fresh food. The project will partner the agricultural program at Cook College with local schools and non-profit organizations that serve the New Brunswick community. Organic vegetables and other foods grown by Cook College students will be distributed throughout the local community in a variety of ways: local high school students involved in a Youth Farm Stand project will sell the produce in

New Brunswick, learning marketing and business skills along the way; the College will expand its efforts to sell food to local supermarkets and restaurants; and 50% of the produce will go to local non-profits like Elijah's Promise, a food kitchen that also operates a successful culinary institute for low-income individuals seeking job training. The Healthy Foundations project will also create a curriculum to be used in local high schools about agriculture, to re-connect urban dwellers to the sources of the food they eat. EPA's grant will fund these projects as well as two new passive-solar heated greenhouses for the Cook College farm. The greenhouses will enable food to be grown year-round. Applicant: Department of Nutritional Sciences, Rutgers University, NJ

Alliance for Affordable Green Development (New Mexico) 98-06-NM-2730-B In 1996, the City formed the Albuquerque Sustainable Community Committee (ASCC) to develop sustainability indicators. The ASCC noted the need to build a cooperative atmosphere for groups and individuals working on sustainability-related issues. There is no shortage of interest in building a sustainable community in Albuquerque. However, a focus needs to be established, and targets for the focus have already been identified: developing and implementing locally-adapted energy rating and certification systems; promoting and insuring adoption of green building codes and ordinances; and designing and piloting affordable housing that uses less water and energy and minimizes building wastes, and improves upon the treatment of wastes generated by occupants. Long-term (after this project is complete), the Alliance will continue to monitor and improve sustainable living in Albuquerque. Applicant: City of Albuquerque, NM

Synthesis and Sustainability in Indian Housing (New Mexico) 98-06-NM-1723-A The people of the Acoma have long lived in housing they built of earth, stone, and wood collected on tribal lands. These structures embodied centuries of adaptation to the local climate and available technology. Many of these two- and three-story buildings are still occupied today and are a source of cultural pride. This sustainable lifestyle is threatened. The importation of products and services from outside the reservation is now common practice. In fact, during the last federally-funded construction project no local materials were used. Because of the non-sustainable, non-traditional, and energy inefficient federally-funded housing built in recent decades, young people can no longer maintain the environmentally appropriate multi-layered masonry walled/earthen roofs dwellings built centuries ago by their ancestors, nor can they recreate this sustainable technology in new housing. The goals of this project are to 1) reduce the current reliance by Acoma Pueblo on outside human labor and manufactured materials in the building of new and restoration of old homes, 2) reintroduce sustainable building methods appropriate to the environmental resources of the Acoma Pueblo and the cultural needs of its people, 3) educate the youth of the Acoma with skills they can use to find employment, maintain traditional lifestyles, and restore and build sustainable housing, 4) provide environmentally sensitive and economical housing to help relieve Acoma's housing shortage, and 5) introduce modern technology, when appropriate, and make the results of the integration of modern and traditional methods as they pertain to sustainable development available to the public. Applicant: Cornerstones Community Partnerships, Santa Fe, NM

Sustainable Utica: Creating Community-based Solutions to Inner City Environmental Challenges (New York) 98-02-NY-1974-A Utica Community Action, Inc. will receive a grant of \$50,000 to go towards the first sustainable community initiative ever undertaken in the city. In partnership with the Mayor, Oneida County Economic Development Growth Enterprises and other non-profit organizations including, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Legal Aid Society, Utica Head Start, Cornhill Community for Change, a neighborhood organization; and Love, Inc., a faith-based organization – Utica Community Action will use the EPA grant to conduct a broad sustainability education initiative and prioritize citizen concerns about environmental, social and economic issues. Critical issues that the project will address include stemming illegal dumping, redeveloping brownfields for increased production and job opportunities, reducing the threats of childhood lead poisoning, redeveloping recreational areas and open space, and increasing the number of healthy food sources for low-income neighborhoods. Utica Community Action and its partners will ultimately develop a strategic plan for the city that will help to promote economic opportunities while improving the local environment and the quality-of-life. Applicant: Utica Community Action, Inc., Utica, NY

Development of Direct Urban Markets to Sustain Rural Crop Land Usage (New York)

98-02-NY-1961-A The Broadway Market Management Corporation in Buffalo will use its \$50,000 grant to establish a direct urban market for locally-grown food products. Working in partnership with the Erie County Department of the Environment and Planning, the group will seek to alleviate two local problems – the loss of rural crop lands due to suburban sprawl, and the lack of fresh produce in the low-income downtown area around the Broadway Market. The project will develop a plan to sell food grown by regional farmers to the 30,000 potential consumers living within a one-mile radius of the market. The project will also develop programs to link urban gardeners with expert rural producers. The increase in

the local farmers' consumer base will help keep farms and dairy lands in operation, preserve the rural character of Western New York, and strengthen the region's economy. Consumers, in the meantime, will have an increased understanding of the complexities of farm life, and access to healthier locally-grown food. Applicant: Broadway Market Management Corporation, Buffalo, NY

Toward a Regional Sustainable Agricultural System (North Carolina) 98-04-NC-2366-B Farming is the number one economic activity in many rural counties in western North Carolina. However, rural residents and farmers are facing systemic challenges pertaining to the pressures from urban sprawl, and a systematic substitution of imported goods that could be locally produced. Farmers are facing significant changes because 1) burley tobacco has been their principal cash crop, 2) there has been a steady decline in the number of viable farms and 3) significant land transfers are expected over the next decade since most land is held by an elderly population. This project proposes to help farmers, who make up the majority of the population, make the transition from conventional burley tobacco production (extremely degrading to the environment and human health) to organic food production that is higher in profitability. As more markets open up to local producers, farming will become stabilized and the unnecessary outflow of food dollars will be minimized. Applicant: Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., Asheville, NC

Tribal Buffalo Restoration Program (North Dakota) 98-08-ND-3006-B The goals of this project are to support continued introduction of Bison to lands of 47 member Tribes; educate tribal members in ecological benefits of Bison habitat management; stimulate economic development via small-scale Bison hide tannery using traditional Lakota methods. Outcomes include introduction of 140+ Bison to Tribal lands across six EPA regions; train one member from each of 47 Tribes in ecological principles of Bison habitat management; develop pilot, small-scale Bison hide tannery; reduce water, pesticide, herbicide use, predator control measures and riparian destruction; repair of tribal cultural and spiritual identity. Applicant: Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative, Rapid City, ND

Good Woods—A Rural Communities Forest Restoration and Economic Opportunities Initiative (Oregon) 98-10-OR-3322-B Sustainable Northwest, with a broad network of university, business, nonprofit, economic development councils, public agencies and sustainable timber partners, will work collaboratively with rural communities across Idaho, Oregon and Washington to build a sustainable market-driven approach to forest restoration. The project will help reverse Pacific Northwest forest deterioration by adding value to small-diameter wood harvested from overstocked, wildfire and disease/ hazard prone forests. Rural communities will contract with forest stewards to sustainably remove small-diameter timber and process it locally to provide high value consumer products such as furniture, paneling and flooring. The project links environmental restoration and protection to job creation and creates connections between rural communities and urban markets. The project will provide a model for other forest-product regions and communities. Applicant: Sustainable Northwest, Portland, OR

Greensgrow Philadelphia Project (Pennsylvania) 98-03-PA-2124-A Greensgrow Philadelphia Project was founded in 1997 to develop a replicable model hydroponics urban agricultural business for re-use of post industrial brownfield and vacant lots in Philadelphia and for low skill job creation in economically depressed neighborhoods. The GGPH's current business is focused on growing specialty lettuces on a previously abandoned 3/4 acre lot in New Kensington that has been remediated by the EPA. Greensgrow had brought business and civic leaders, city and state agencies, private and public funding sources, business people and institutions of higher learning together to forge a more scientific, measurable approach to urban farming. Greensgrow is seeking EPA funds to expand and refine the model which will be used for duplication in other areas of Philadelphia and for export to other cities faced with the dual issues of post industrial land re-use and low skill job creation. Applicant: Greensgrow Farm, Philadelphia, PA

Strengthening Our Relationship with Mother Earth (South Dakota) 98-08-SD-3001-A The goals of this project are to expand local food production from community gardens, establish economically valuable windbreak species for erosion control around gardens, demonstrate the viability of farmers markets linking local garden crops to reservation food voucher programs, and demonstrate solar technologies for fencing and lighting. Outcomes include quantitative increases in numbers of community gardens, windbreaks, and farmers markets; reduced soil loss and water quality degradation from erosion; reduced prevalence of dietary diabetes among Indian children; reduced air quality impacts via transition to solar technologies; cultural strengthening via links of youth to elders. Applicant: The Center for Permaculture As Native Science, Mission, SD

4H CAPITAL s School Pool (Texas) 98-06-TX-2756-A This project will develop a collaboration of students, school

and transportation officials to design and implement a network of SchoolPool programs that promote informed decisions about personal transportation choices that protect the environment and improve the quality of life in the community. On a per capita basis, the number of vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) in Austin quadrupled, the number of vehicles owned doubled, and half again the number of vehicle trips were taken in Austin in 1990 than in 1960. A recent Austin survey showed less than 3% of working persons use the bus for their commute, and more than 1500 persons surveyed reported they never use any mode of transportation other than their own car as a means of commuting to work or school. The situation not only has negative impacts on the environment but also imposes serious social injustice. People without cars are at an extreme disadvantage in their efforts to stay in school or keep a job. Through this project disadvantaged high school students will take the lead in changing the way their peers, parents, teachers, and community leaders think about their travel choices. Applicant: 4H CAPITAL Project, Austin, TX

Envision Utah - Phase II (Utah) 98-08-UT-3011-B This project will take the outcome of Envision Utah Phase I and craft a consensus-based preferred option for development along the Wasatch Front. Outcomes include communication tools for preferred option, benchmark surveys for evaluating progress, and significant community outreach efforts. Non-sustainable behavior includes potential threats to fragile wetlands, lake, and steep terrain environments and agricultural lands. Applicant: Coalition for Utah's Future, Salt Lake City, UT

Sustainable Burlington (Vermont) 98-01-VT-1717-B The City of Burlington and the Institute for Sustainable Communities propose this three-part project to make Burlington a more effective model of sustainability and actively share Burlington's best practices and lessons learned with other communities. The effort is intended to help Burlington's leadership and diverse population, including young people, work more effectively together to fully incorporate sustainable practices as part of their planning, decision making, and daily life. By providing a community-driven vision, the project will help integrate the numerous sustainability efforts underway in Burlington, and strengthen collaboration among various stakeholders. Mayor Clavelle has challenged the community to become the nation's most sustainable city by the year 2000, and has instituted a number of projects that are making a difference in neighborhoods across the city. This project is the logical next step to draw these individual projects together into a coherent whole. Applicant: City of Burlington, VT

Sustainable Communities Short Course (Washington) 98-10-WA-3306-B Smart Growth is a sustainable approach to understanding the environmental, economic and social impacts of traditional land-use planning. The SmartGrowth Campaign of Snohomish County, Washington, and business, tribal, builder/developer, nonprofit and state/county partners will use local examples to demonstrate the adverse civic, economic and environmental impacts of sprawl and provide that information to their community in the form of a short course. Snohomish County is facing a critical time in which land-use decisions are being made rapidly in response to exponential growth. Smart Growth planning can help community members and decision-makers protect habitat, plan for commuter transportation needs, protect air and water quality and build sustainable communities with a healthy local economy. The curriculum and materials developed will be available and adaptable to other communities facing exponential growth and looking for a viable alternative to sprawl. Applicant: SmartGrowth Campaign of Snohomish County/Pilchuck Audubon, Everett, WA

Regional Stewardship Center (West Virginia) 98-03-WV-2140-B The Lightstone Foundation, joining with Almost Heaven, Habitat for Humanity, the school systems of Grant, Hampshire, Mineral and Monroe Counties and other partners propose a three-year project to develop a Regional Stewardship Center on Lightstone's 600 acre certified organic farm located at the headwaters of the Potomac River. These partners have worked with Lightstone over the years to integrate stewardship principles in local schools and communities. The Regional Stewardship Center will work with the greater community and the partnering organizations and schools to practice and support sustainable family farming, natural resources management, and rural community-based development. The Center will provide training and financial support for: 1) integrating stewardship projects in communities and their watersheds as the focus of school curriculums in four counties, 2) improving water quality, 3) constructing affordable eco-housing for low income households, and 4) developing sustainable micro-entrepreneurial opportunities which enhance the natural environment and social and economic vitality of our rural communities. Applicant: Lightstone Foundation, Inc., Moyers, WV

Smart Growth Here! Milwaukee's Sustainable City Building Initiative (Wisconsin)

98-05-WI-2559-B This project addresses six sites in the former industrial valley near the harbor/port of Milwaukee. The goals of the project are to: 1) incorporate the restoration of environmentally contaminated brownfields as part of a green redevelopment design charrette process, GIS mapping to create smart growth models; 2) create permanent linkages for new design and development scenarios with the implementation of the Henry Aaron State Park Bike trail; 3) document for

private investors the competitive advantages of developing in central city location versus exurban sprawl communities by creating a system of measures for environmental, financial and community benchmarking; 4) demonstrate with two identified parcels of property the utility of this benchmarking system and with a sophisticated GIS mapping process, lay the foundation for a marketing strategy to attract additional development; 5) build on the City's Menomonee Valley Land Use Plan and begin environmental analysis, wetland restoration and site preparation to enable Smart Growth to go forward; and, 6) provide a practical test case and help shape the City's new design standards for industrial and commercial developments. Applicant: 16th Street Community Health Center, Milwaukee, WI

The Liveable Community: A Model Development for a Small City (Wisconsin) 98-05-WI-2533-A This project takes place in a small city outside Minneapolis that had originally planned a strip mall for the 100 acre site. Sprawl and poor land use are the non-sustainable behaviors addressed. Expected outcomes: site design which will include energy efficient housing, decreased runoff, more sidewalks, smaller lot sizes, more home ownership for low and moderate income. Zoning officials have agreed to use the model. This area is in danger of becoming a bedroom suburb for the Twin cities. The project will: 1) organize a community-based planning process; 2) develop a land use and design plan for the site; 3) establish design and construction options for housing development; 4) propose affordable housing options; and 5) provide county and city government with a comprehensive plan for moving ahead with implementation. Applicant: The Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy, Menomonie, WI